

FIFTY-THIRD SEASON.

# Handel and Haydn Society.



## THE WORDS

—OF—

MENDELSSOHN'S ORATORIO,

# ST. PAUL,

PERFORMED AT THE

BOSTON MUSIC HALL,

On Sunday Evening, (EASTER,) March 28, 1869.

PRINCIPAL VOCALISTS:

Miss J. E. HOUSTON,

Miss ADELAIDE PHILLIPPS,

Mr. JAMES WHITNEY,

Mr. JOHN F. WINCH.

The Great Chorus of the Society, a large Orchestra, and the Great Organ.

B. J. LANG,.....Organist.

**CARL ZERRAHN**,.....Conductor.

TICKETS, (with Secured Seats,) at \$1.00 and \$1.50, according to location.

Doors open at 6½ o'clock. Oratorio will commence at 7½.

E. L. BALCH, Printer, 14 Kilby Street.

# Mendelssohn's St. Paul.

## PART I.

### OVERTURE.

CHORUS.—Lord! thou alone art God, and thine are the Heavens, the Earth and mighty waters. The Heathen furiously rage, Lord! against thee and thy Christ. Now behold, lest our foes prevail, and grant to thy servants all strength and joyfulness, that they may preach thy word.

### CHORALE.

To God on high be thanks and praise,  
Who deigns our bonds to sever,  
His cares our drooping souls upraise,  
And harm shall reach us never:  
On him we rest, with faith assured,  
Of all that live the mighty Lord,  
For ever and for ever.

REC. (*Soprano*).—And the many that believed were of one heart and of one soul, and Stephen, full of faith and full of power, did great wonders among the people; and they of the synagogue were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit with which he spake. Then they suborned men, who were false witnesses, which said:—(*Two Basses*) We verily have heard him blaspheme against these holy places, and against the law.

REC. (*Soprano*).—And they stirred up the people and the Elders, and came upon him and caught hold of him, and brought him to the council and spake:

CHORUS.—Now this man ceaseth not to utter blasphemous words against the law of Moses, and also God! Did we not enjoin and straightly command you, that you should not teach in the name ye follow? And lo! ye have filled Jerusalem throughout with those unlawful doctrines! He hath said, and our ears have heard him, Jesus of Nazareth, he shall destroy all these our holy places, and change all the laws and customs which Moses delivered us.

REC. (*Sopr.*).—And all that sat in the council looked steadfastly on him, and saw his face, as it had been the face of an angel. Then said the High Priest: Are these things so? And Stephen said: (*Ten.*) Men, Brethren, and Fathers! Harken to me. The God of glory appeared unto our Fathers, and delivered the people out of their afflictions, and gave them favor. But they understood it not. He sent Moses into Egypt, for he saw their afflictions and heard their groaning, but they refused him, and would not obey his word, but thrust him from them, and sacrificed to senseless idols. Solomon built him an house, albeit, the Most High God

dwelleth not in temples which are made with hands, for Heaven is his throne, and earth is but his foot-stool; Hath not his hand made all these things? Ye hard of heart! ye always do resist the Holy Ghost. As did your Fathers, even so do ye! Which of the Prophets have not your Fathers persecuted? And they have slain them which shewed before the coming of Him, the just one, with whose murder ye have here been stained. Ye have received the Law, received it by the disposition of angels, and ye have not obeyed it!

CHORUS.—Take him away! for now the holy name of God he hath blasphemed, and who blasphemeth him, he shall perish!

REC. (*Tenor*).—Lo! I see the Heavens opened, and the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of God!

AIR. (*Sopr.*).—Jerusalem! thou that killest the Prophets, thou that stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered unto thee thy children, and ye would not!

REC. (*Tenor*).—Then they ran upon him with one accord, and cast him out of the city and stoned him and cried aloud:

CHORUS.—Stone him to death, he blasphemeth God, and who does so shall surely perish!

REC.—And they stoned him, and he kneeled down and cried aloud: Lord! lay not this sin to their charge. Lord Jesus, receive my spirit! And when he had said this he fell asleep.

### CHORAL.

To Thee, O Lord, I yield my spirit,  
Who break'st, in love, this mortal chain!  
My life I but from Thee inherit,  
And death becomes my chiefest gain.  
In Thee I live, in Thee I die,  
Content, for Thou art ever nigh.

REC. (*Soprano*).—And the witnesses had laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man whose name was Saul, who was consenting unto his death. And devout men took Stephen, and carried him to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

CHORUS.—Happy and blest are they who have endured! for though the body dies, the soul shall live forever.

REC. (*Tenor*).—Now Saul made havoc of the Church and breathing out threatenings and



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slaughter against the disciples, he spake of them much evil, and said :

AIR. (*Bass.*)—Consume them all, Lord Sabaoth ! Consume all these thine enemies ! Behold, they will not know thee, that thou our great Jehovah, art the Lord alone ; the Highest over all the world. Pour out thine indignation, and let them feel thy power !

REC. AND AIR. (*Alto.*)—And he journeyed with companions towards Damascus, and had authority and command from the High Priest that he might bring them bound, men and women, unto Jerusalem.—But the Lord is mindful of his own ! He remembers his children. Bow down before Him, ye mighty, for the Lord is near us !

REC. (*Alto.*)—And as he journeyed, he came near unto Damascus, when suddenly there shone around him a light from Heaven, and he fell to the earth, and he heard a voice saying unto him :

CHORUS.—Saul ! Saul, why persecutest thou me ? REC. (*Tenor & Bass.*) And he said : Lord ! who art thou ? And the Lord said to him : CHO.—I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest. REC.—And he said, trembling and astonished : Lord ! what wilt thou have me do ? The Lord said to him : CHO.—Arise, and go into the city, and there thou shalt be told what thou must do.

CHORUS.—Rise, up, arise, rise and shine ! for thy light comes, and the glory of the Lord riseth bright upon thee. Behold, now, total darkness covereth the kingdoms, and gross darkness the people ; but upon thee riseth the mighty Lord ; the glory of the Lord appeareth upon thee.

CHORUS.—Sleepers, wake ! a voice is calling, It is the watchman on the walls : Thou city of Jerusalem ! For lo ! the Bridegroom comes ! Arise, and take your lamps ! Hallelujah ! Awake ! His kingdom is at hand ! Go forth to meet your Lord !

REC. (*Tenor.*)—And his companions which journeyed with him stood, and they were afraid, hearing a voice but seeing no man ! And Saul arose from the earth, and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man : but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus, and he

was three days without sight ; and did neither eat nor drink.

AIR. (*Bass.*)—O God have mercy upon me, and blot out my transgressions according to thy loving kindness, yea, even for thy mercy's sake ! Deny me not, O cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy spirit from me, O Lord. Lord, a broken heart and a contrite heart is offered before thee. O God have mercy upon me according to thy loving kindness, yea, even for thy mercy's sake. I will speak of thy salvation, I will teach transgressors, and sinners shall be converted unto thee ; Then open thou my lips, O Lord !

REC. (*Tenor.*)—And there was a disciple at Damascus, named Ananias, to him said the Lord :—(*Soprano*) Ananias, arise ! and inquire thou for Saul at Tarsus, for behold he prayeth ! He is a chosen vessel, unto me, the Lord ! and I will shew unto him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

SOLO (*Bass*) AND CHORUS.—I praise thee, O Lord my God ! with all my heart for ever more. For great is thy mercy towards me, and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell !—The Lord he is good : He shall dry your tears and heal all your sorrows—I praise thee, O Lord, I praise thee ! For his word shall not decay.

REC. (*Sopr.*)—And Ananias went his way and entered into the house, and laying his hands upon him, said : (*Tenor.*) “ Hear thou Brother Saul ! The Lord hath sent me hither even Jesus that appeared unto thee as thou camest, that thou might'st receive thy sight, and be likewise filled with the Holy Ghost.” (*Sopr.*) And there fell from his eyes like as though it were scales, and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And straightway he preached Jesus in the Synagogues, and said “ I thank God who hath made me free through Christ.”

CHORUS.—O great is the depth of the riches of wisdom and knowledge of the Father ; great is the depth of the riches of wisdom and of the knowledge of our God ! How deep and unerring is he in his judgments ! His ways are past our understanding. Sing His glory for evermore, Amen.

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## PART II.

CHORUS.—The Nations are now the Lord's, they are his Christ's. For all the Gentiles come before Thee, and shall worship thy name. Now are made manifest thy glorious law and judgments.

REC. (*Sopr.*)—And Paul came to the congregation, and preached freely the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Then spake the Holy Ghost : Set ye apart Barnabas and Paul, for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

DUET. (*Tenor and Bass.*)—Now we are Ambassadors in the name of Christ, and God beseeches you by us. Yea, God beseeches you by us, in the name of Christ.

CHORUS.—How lovely are the messengers who preach us the gospel of Peace ! To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words, throughout all the lands, their glad tidings.

REC. AND AIR. (*Sopr.*)—So they, being filled with the Holy Ghost, departing thence delayed not, and preached the word of God with joyfulness.—I will sing of thy great mercies, O Lord, of thy mercies, O Lord my Saviour ! and of thy faithfulness evermore.

REC. (*Tenor.*)—But when the Jews saw the multitudes, how they assembled to hear what Paul delivered unto them, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

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CHORUS.—Thus saith the Lord, I am the Lord, and beside me is no Saviour.

REC. (*Tenor.*)—And they laid wait for Paul, and consulted together that they might kill him, and spoke one to another.

CHORUS.—Is this he, who in Jerusalem destroyed all calling on that name which here he preacheth? May all deceivers ever be confounded! Force him away; hence, away!

CHORAL. (*Quartette and Cho.*)

O Thou, the true and only light!

Direct the souls that walk in night,

And bring them 'neath thy shelt'ring care,

To find them best redemption there.

Illumine those who blindly roam,

O, call the wand'rer kindly home.

The hearts astray that union crave,

And those in doubt confirm and save!

REC. (*Tenor.*)—But Paul and Barnabas spake freely and publicly unto the people.

(*Bass.*)—Ye were chosen first to have the word of the Lord set before you; but seeing that ye put it from ye, and judge yourselves unworthy of the life everlasting; behold ye, we turn, even now, unto the Gentiles,

DUET. (*Tenor and Bass.*)—For so hath the Lord himself commanded, Behold, I have made thee a light to the Gentiles, and for salvation unto all the Earth. For those who call on the Lord, he will hear them, and they shall be blessed.

REC. (*Sopr.*)—And there was a man at Lystra impotent in his feet, and who had never walked; and the same heard Paul speak, who steadfastly beholding him, said with a loud voice: "Stand upright upon thy feet," and he leaped up and walked, and praised God. But when the Gentiles saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying one to another:

CHORUS.—The Gods themselves as mortals have descended! Behold them here! Let us adore them!

REC. (*Sopr.*)—And they called Barnabas Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius. Then the Priest of Jupiter, which was before the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and would have sacrificed with the people, and adored them.

CHORUS.—O be gracious, ye Immortals; heed our sacrifice with favor!

REC. (*Tenor.*)—Now when the Apostles heard the same, they rent their garments, and ran in among the people, crying out and saying: (*Bass.*) O wherefore, do ye these things? we also are men of like passions with yourselves, who preach unto you, in peace and earnestness, that ye should turn away from all these vanities unto the ever living God, who made the outstretched heavens, the earth and the sea! As saith the Prophet: "All your idols are but falsehood, and there is no breath in them: they are vanity, and the works of errors: In the time of their trouble they shall perish." God dwelleth not in temples made

with hands. For know ye not that ye are his Temple, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth within you? and whosoever God's Temple defileth, God shall sure destroy him; for the Temple of God is holy, which Temple ye are. But our God abideth in Heaven, his will directeth all the world.

CHORUS.—But our God abideth in Heaven, who made the skies, the earth, and sea: We bow to only his decree, his will directeth all the world!

REC. (*Soprano.*)—Then the multitude was stirred up against them, and there was an assault of the Jews and of the Gentiles; they were full of anger, and cried out against them:

CHORUS.—This is Jehovah's Temple! Ye children of Israel help us! This is the man who teacheth all men against the people, against this place and also against our holy law. Stone him to death! He blasphemeth God! Stone him to death!

REC. (*Sopr.*)—And they all persecuted Paul on his way; but the Lord stood with him, and strengthened him, that by him the word might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear.

AIR. (*Tenor.*)—Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give to thee a crown of life. Be not afraid, my help is nigh.

REC. (*Sopr.*)—And Paul sent and called the Elders of the Church at Ephesus, and said to them: (*Bass.*)—Ye know how at all seasons I have been with you, serving the Lord with all humility, and with many tears testifying the faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ; and now behold ye! I, bound in spirit, now go forth to Jerusalem. Bonds and affliction, abide me there, and ye shall see my face no more. (*Sop.*) And they all wept sore, and prayed.

SOLO AND CHORUS.—Far be it from thy path. These things shall not be unto thee. REC. *Bass.* What mean ye thus to weep, and thus to break my heart? For I am prepared not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord our Saviour Jesus Christ! (*Tenor.*) And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down and prayed with them all, and they accompanied him unto the ship, and saw his face no more.

CHORUS.—See what love hath the Father bestowed on us in his goodness, that we should be called God's own children.

REC. (*Sopr.*)—And though he be offered upon the sacrifice of our faith, yet he hath fought a good fight, he hath finished his course; he hath kept well the faith: henceforth there is laid up for him a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge shall give him at the last great day. CHO. Not only unto him, but to all them that love truly his appearing. The Lord careth for us, and blesseth us. The Lord saveth us and blesseth us. Bless thou the Lord, O my soul, and all within me bless his most holy name; bless thou and praise him for ever and ever. All ye his Angels, bless ye the Lord.